

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONb7c
b7D

Copy to: 2 - INTC, Birmingham (RM)
1 - ONI, Birmingham (RM)
1 - OSI, Birmingham (RM)
1 - U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham (RM)

Report of: SA [REDACTED]
Date: July 23, 1965

Office: BIRMINGHAM

Field Office File #: BH 157-634

Bureau File #:

Title: MATTHEW HOBSON MURPHY, JR.

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis: MATTHEW HOBSON MURPHY, JR., most frequently known as MATT MURPHY, JR., is a practicing attorney at Birmingham, Alabama, and now resides in the Six Mile Community near Centreville, Alabama. He was born 7/11/14, the son of MATTHEW H. MURPHY, SR., a former well known politician in the State of Alabama, who at one time was Assistant Attorney General of Alabama. MURPHY graduated from the University of Alabama Law School, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1949 and at one time was associated with the law firm, LINDBERGH, MURPHY & ANSLEY, Birmingham, which has been disbanded. During recent years, MURPHY has associated himself with officials and members of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (UKA), both in representing such members as an attorney and in attending various Klan rallies throughout the south-east, where he is usually a principal speaker. He was engaged by ROBERT M. SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, UKA, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to defend the three defendants indicted for the murder of Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO, who are EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON. MURPHY gained considerable national publicity in defense of first individual tried, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., at Hayneville, Alabama, and during trial ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, UKA, conferred with MURPHY and occasionally sat at the counsel table with him.

[REDACTED]

P*

BH 157-634

b7c
b7D

DETAILS: AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

I. BACKGROUND

A. Birth Date

MATTHEW HOBSON MURPHY, JR. was born at Birmingham, Alabama, on July 11, 1914.

B. Citizenship

MURPHY is an American citizen, son of MATTHEW H. MURPHY, SR. and Mrs. ELLEN PERCY MURPHY.

C. Education

Subject graduated from the University of Alabama Law School at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1949. Previous to that he had attended Washington and Lee University in Virginia.

D. Marital Status

He is presently married to MARY ELLEN DUNCAN, ? foster daughter of Mr. and Mrs. THOMAS E. McKINSTRY, whom he married in 1947.

E. Military Service

Subject is reported to have served in the U. S. Army from January 21, 1943, to January 23, 1946.

F. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7D

BH 157-634

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

G. Employment

Since graduation from the University of Alabama Law School in 1949, subject has been a practicing attorney at Birmingham and maintains offices at the present time in the Frank Nelson Building.

H. Residence

Subject formerly resided with his wife at the address, 1447 Ridge Road, Birmingham, Alabama, but has recently moved his residence to a farm which he has owned for many years, and his present residence is listed as Six Mile, Centreville, Alabama, where he subscribes to Centreville telephone 926-7510.

BH 157-634

I. Physical Description

Subject is described as follows:

Name	MATTHEW HOBSON MURPHY, JR.
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	July 11, 1914
Place of Birth	Birmingham, Alabama
Height	6'3"
Weight	210 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Build	Heavy
Complexion	Ruddy
Marital Status:	Married MARY ELLEN DUNCAN on 6/6/47; 3 children.
Service Record:	U. S. Army from 1/21/43 to 1/23/46; Serial No. 34,108,033
Scars and Marks:	Little and ring fingers on right hand amputated.
Occupation:	Attorney, Frank Nelson Building, Birmingham, Alabama.
Arrest Record:	None known.

J. 



K. Photograph

Photograph available in Birmingham file.

L. Special Abilities of Subject

None known.

BH 157-634

b2
b7D
b7C

M. Associates

Subject has associated with officials of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (UKA), including ROBERT M. SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, UKA, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and other officials of that organization in states surrounding Alabama. He has associated with [REDACTED] of Atlanta, Georgia, in speaking at Klan rallies held in various parts of the southeast, and has also associated with [REDACTED], National States Rights Party (NSRP), with Headquarters until recently at Birmingham, but now located in Augusta, Georgia.

II. CONNECTIONS WITH KLAN TYPE AND
HATE TYPE ORGANIZATIONS

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.,
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UKA)

A characterization of the UKA is being set forth in the appendix of this report.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b2
b7D

BH 157-634

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]




[REDACTED]

"The Birmingham News", a daily newspaper of Birmingham, Alabama, for September 6, 1964, printed an article entitled "Klan Leader Blasts Courts, U.N., Others." This article stated that ROBERT SHELTON of Tuscaloosa, Imperial Wizard of UKA, told a Birmingham audience that segregation is but one of the issues supported by his group. SHELTON was quoted as saying, "Segregation is an issue that is important", and further said "Constitutional government, defeat of Communism, and overthrow of liberals and anti-Christians are also basic beliefs of this Klan's invisible empire."

b2
b7c
b7D

BH 157-634

According to the news article, SHELTON addressed a banquet of Klansmen and their wives at the Tutwiler Hotel in Birmingham, where more than 500 persons were present, including Grand Dragons and delegates from Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The meeting was registered at the hotel as the "Alabama Rescue Service". SHELTON was followed by Birmingham Attorney MATT MURPHY.



b2
b7c
b7D

BH 157-634

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On March 21, 1965, [REDACTED] observed a Ku Klux Klan rally held at Montgomery, Alabama, and noted a 1964 Chrysler Convertible bearing 1965 Alabama license 1A-40217, as being in attendance at the rally. This license tag is issued to MATT H. MURPHY, JR., 210 Frank Nelson Building, Birmingham.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

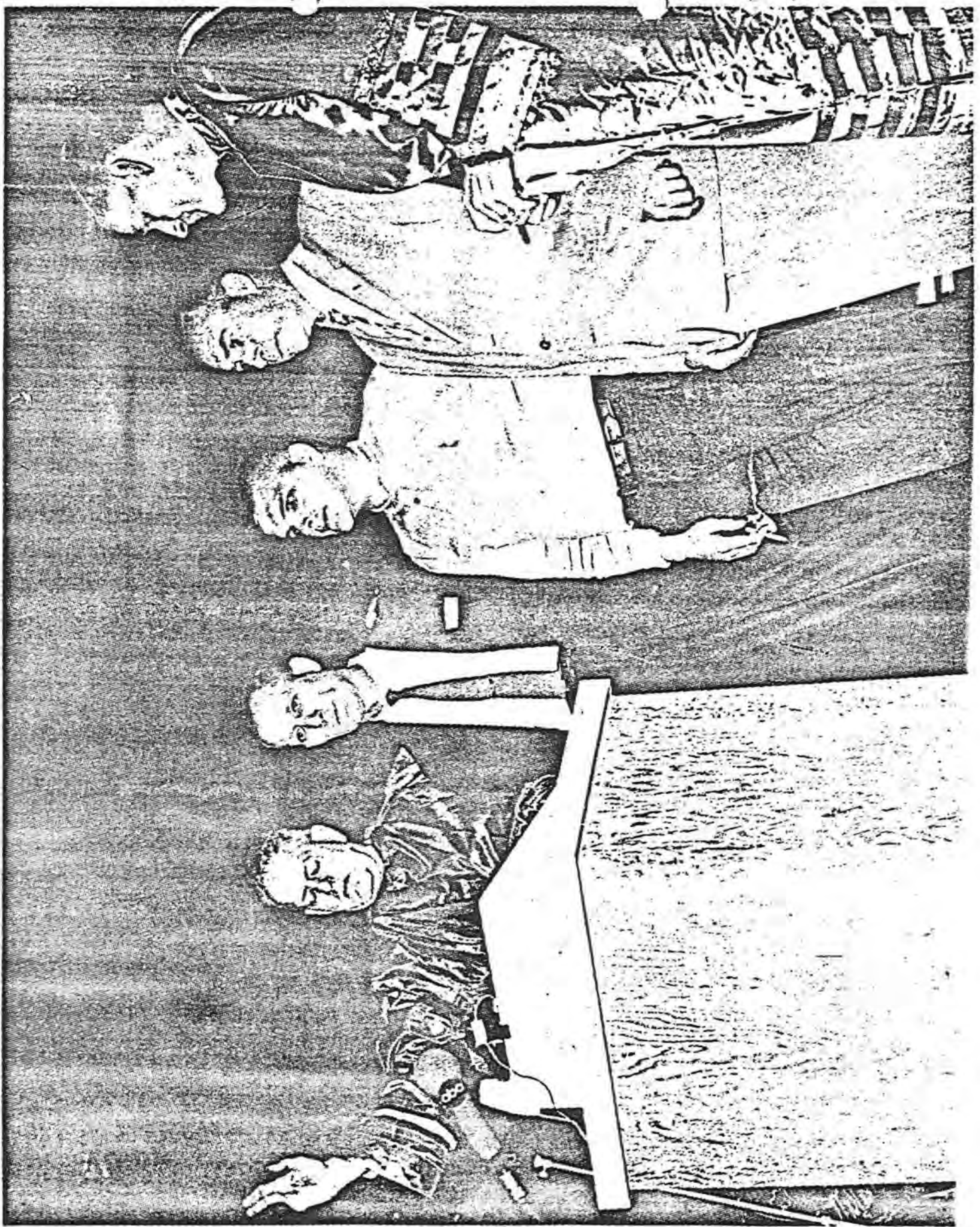
"The Tuscaloosa News", a daily newspaper of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in its April 18, 1965, issue, reported a statement by ROBERT M. SHELTON to the effect that if Attorney General NICHOLAS KATZENBACH says there is no Communist influence in the Civil Rights movement, "I'll add him to the list and say he is a liar, too," in referring to a previous statement wherein he called President JOHNSON "a liar".

"The Tuscaloosa News", in its edition of Friday, April 23, 1965, carried a photograph on page one with sub-heading as follows:

"THREE SUSPECTS AT KLAN RALLY HERE".

The article stated, "The three men indicted in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo were introduced at a Ku Klux Klan Rally at Tuscaloosa last Saturday night. Shown above, flanked by Imperial Wizard ROBERT SHELTON (right) and Klan Attorney MATT MURPHY (left) are (from the left) EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR. and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON."

A copy of the above-mentioned photograph is set forth hereinafter and reflects MATT MURPHY with right hand raised at the speaker's rostrum.



[REDACTED]

During the period, May 3-6, 1965, SA [REDACTED] was present in the Courtroom at the trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., in connection with his indictment for the murder of Mrs. LIUZZO. During this trial, Attorney MATT MURPHY was representing the defendant, WILKINS, and SA [REDACTED] observed that ROBERT M. SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, UKA, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was present in the Court Room each day of the trial and, in fact, sat at the counsel table with Attorney MURPHY a portion of the time. MURPHY was representing WILKINS as the Imperial Counsel of the UKA.


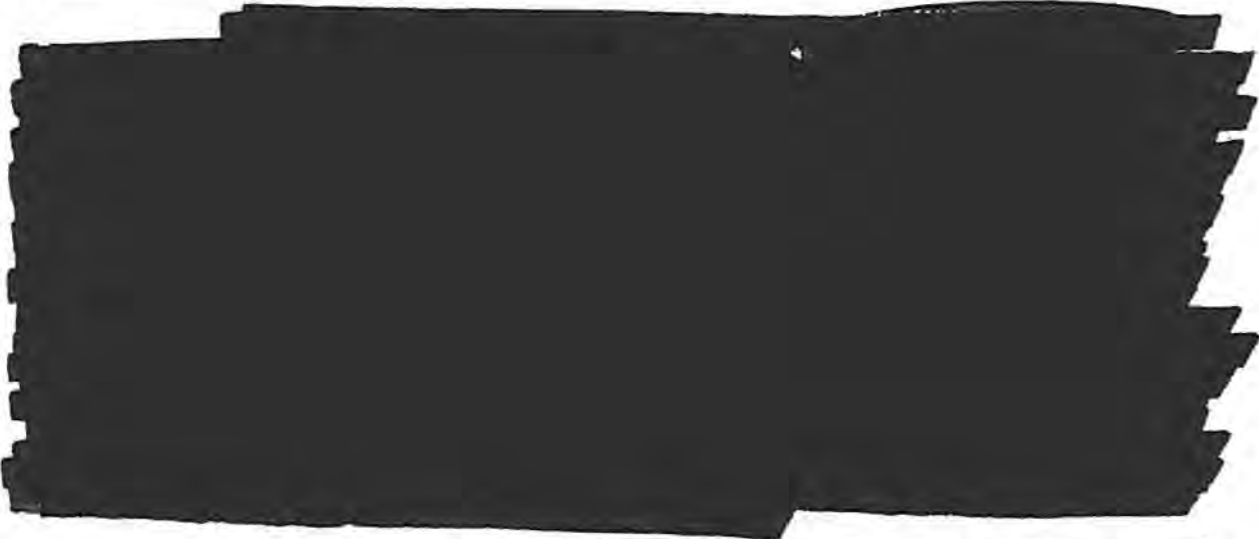


SA [REDACTED] noted that ROBERT SHELTON had been present in the Courtroom daily and was not legally entitled to appear as a witness for the defense since he had not remained in the witness room; however, MURPHY later called SHELTON to the stand where he was not challenged by Solicitor GAMBLE or anyone else, and he started to testify as to what ROWE said, whereupon GAMBLE objected and the Judge sustained his objection. It is further noted GAMBLE did not question ROBERT SHELTON as to his occupation, which would have to have been given as Imperial Wizard, UKA; neither did he question any of the other Klan witnesses as to their membership or connection with UKA. All these Klansmen, such as ROBERT S. THOMAS, Grand Titan, UKA, were placed on the stand by MATT MURPHY, who did not identify them in any way with the UKA. He merely asked their names and places of residence. When it came time for Prosecutor GAMBLE to question them, he did not ask them anything which would indicate their connection with any Klan organization.

"The Birmingham Post-Herald, a daily newspaper of Birmingham, Alabama, on page 6 of its Final Edition of 5/25/65, carried an article and photograph of Birmingham Attorney MATT H. MURPHY, JR., as having spoken to the Young Men's Business Club meeting on May 24, 1965. The article characterized MURPHY as attorney for the United Klans of America, Inc.

b2
b7C
b7D

BH 157-634

The article reported that MURPHY, Defense Attorney for COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, one of the three Birmingham Klansmen accused in the killing of Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO, did not refer to the mistrial of Defendant WILKINS in his speech but directed most of his remarks toward degrading the Federal Reserve System.



b2
b7D

BH 157-634

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"The Birmingham Post-Herald," on page 14 of its Final Edition for June 7, 1965, carried an Associated Press article datelined at Atlanta June 6, 1965, reporting a parade and meeting of approximately 500 Klansmen as having occurred in downtown Atlanta, with the parade ending at Hurt Park, where MATT MURPHY, described as a Klan attorney from Birmingham, addressed the crowd. MURPHY, in his speech, degraded Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO, the murdered Detroit civil rights worker, and was also critical of slain Rev. JAMES REEB of Boston, who was killed at Selma, Alabama.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b2
b7D

APPENDIX

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UKA)

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

APPENDIX

b7D

NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY
(NSRP)

[REDACTED]

An article in the November 26, 1957, issue of the "Greenville Piedmont," a newspaper of Greenville, South Carolina, reported "the recent formation of a new political party, to be known as the United White Party." According to the article, the party was formed at a recently held meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, at which many Klansmen were represented. The UWP was reported as being opposed to all "race mixing organizations and individuals."

The July, 1958, issue of "The Thunderbolt," self-described as the "official Racial Nationalist Organ of the National States Rights Party" (NSRP), reported that rank and file "States Righters" had merged with the UWP under "the banner of the National States Rights Party," with national offices at Post Office Box 261, Jeffersonville, Indiana.

[REDACTED]

Issue Number 19, dated June, 1960, "The Thunderbolt," announced the address of the headquarters of the NSRP had been changed from Jeffersonville, Indiana, to Post Office Box 783, Birmingham, Alabama.

Issue Number 60, dated July-August, 1964, reflects the mailing address of the NSRP is still Post Office Box 783, Birmingham, Alabama.

[REDACTED]

"The Thunderbolt" continues to publish articles attacking Negroes and persons of the Jewish faith.

APPENDIX

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

b7c
b7D

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO :

Mr. Rosen *Rosen*

DATE: August 20, 1965

FROM :

SUBJECT:

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - [REDACTED]

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Information was received that attorney Matt Murphy was killed in an automobile accident near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, early in the morning of August 20, 1965.

157-2901

It is noted Murphy presently has pending a suit against [REDACTED]. The suit seeks to recover \$6,000 which Murphy contended was for professional services rendered. As this matter is scheduled for a hearing early in September, [REDACTED] had requested that [REDACTED] contact him telephonically between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m., central standard time, on Friday afternoon 8/20/65. Arrangements had been set up for [REDACTED] to be in contact with the attorney.

ACTION:

SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office was telephonically contacted and advised to immediately get in touch with [REDACTED]. Ingram was to advise [REDACTED] of the death of attorney Matt Murphy and ascertain whether or not it will now be necessary for [REDACTED] to make contact with attorney [REDACTED]. Ingram will contact [REDACTED] and advise the San Francisco Office and the Bureau of [REDACTED] reply.

ORIGINAL FILED IN 44-28601-426

(5)

157-2901-
NOT RECORDED
176 AUG 25 1965

9 AUG 23 1965

57 AUG 27 1965

b7C

FD-113 (1-19-61)

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 8-20-65

Matthew Hobson Murphy was the defense attorney for three Klansmen who were charged with murdering Viola Liuzzo, Civil Rights worker, during Selma-to-Montgomery march past spring.

Murphy gained widespread publicity for his carnival antics in the courtroom during the trial.

Attached information is being furnished to the Civil Rights Division.

[REDACTED]

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Defender of Klan— Matt Murphy Jr. killed in accident

Atty. Matt Murphy Jr. of Birmingham, who gained national attention as counsel for the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and three accused nightriders, was killed in a traffic accident near Tuscaloosa early today.

Coroner Rufus Strickland of Tuscaloosa County confirmed the death of the 51-year-old lawyer while in Birmingham notifying relatives.

Murphy was dead on arrival at Druid City Hospital in Tuscaloosa, where he was brought about 4:30 a.m.

Coroner Strickland said the accident occurred about 3:45 a.m. on U. S. Highway 11, 13 miles north of Tuscaloosa.



MATT MURPHY JR.

He said Murphy apparently went to sleep on a slight curve while headed south towards Tuscaloosa.

Murphy's Chrysler convertible veered into the side of a northbound tanker truck, jamming beneath it and knocking off the rear tandem wheels. The demolished convertible then bounced to the side of the road with the attorney pinned inside.

Strickland said he did not have the name of the truck driver, who escaped injury.

Murphy is survived by two daughters, Ellen Percy Murphy and Jane Marie Murphy; a son, Matthew Hobson Murphy III, and his mother, Mrs. Ellen Percy Murphy, all of Birmingham.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Johns-Ridout's Southside Chapel, with burial in a Greensboro cemetery.

Murphy attained national attention as attorney for three Birmingham area klansmen who were accused of the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo of Detroit last spring.

The first trial, that of Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. of Fairfield, ended in a mistrial, and has been rescheduled for next month at Hayneville.

After the trial Murphy and the defendants in the case appeared at numerous Klan rallies across the South. Murphy made fiery speeches attacking racial integration and federal government intervention in civil rights cases.

The other defendants are Eugene Thomas and William O. Eaton. They were applauded loudly when they also appeared at Klan rallies.

MRS. LIUZZO was shot to death by night riders the night after the Selma-Montgomery civil rights march ended. She was helping return marchers to Selma.

The three klansmen were fingered by an FBI informer, whom Murphy represented in making bond before his role was discovered.

Afterwards Murphy sued the informer, Gary Thomas Rowe, for \$5,000 in legal fees.

MURPHY EVEN threatened to subpoena President Johnson as a witness for the trial last spring.

Klan Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, contacted in Salisbury, N. C., said Murphy "was a man who had forethought, integrity and ability, and above all he had the principle of fighting for the individual's liberty. He is certainly going to be missed by our organization."

The grand dragon of the Alabama Klan, Robert Creel of Birmingham, said of Murphy's death that "not only the Klan, but the entire nation has suffered a great loss."

MURPHY, 51, had practiced law in Birmingham since 1948. Prior to World War II he worked in the steel mills and later was in sales engineering with Republic Steel Corp.

He was active in politics. He was a member of the Episcopal Church, and had held membership in a number of fraternal organizations.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS, BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA

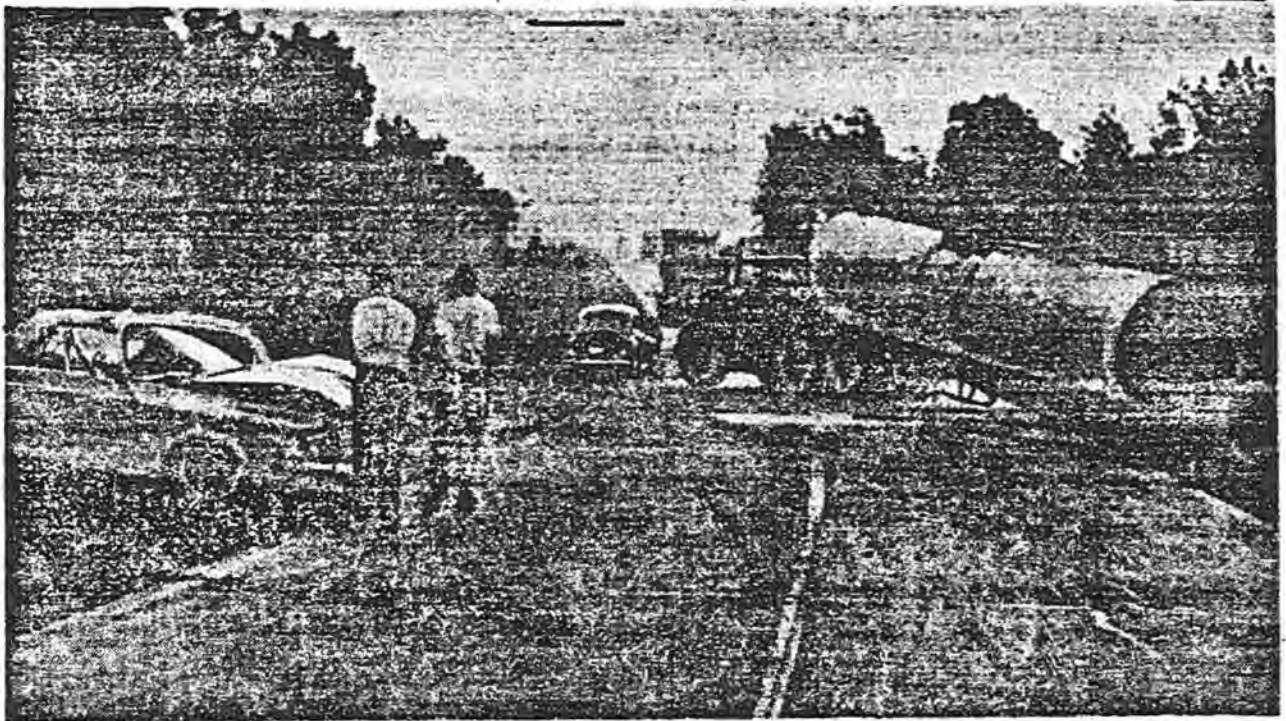
THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD BIRMINGHAM, ALA

Date: 8-20-65
Edition: LATE FINAL
Author:
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMEI
Title: MATT MURPHY, JR. ATTORNEY

Character:
or
Classification: BIRMINGHAM
Submitting Office:
☐ Being Investigated

51 SEP 10 1965

NOT RECORDED
167 SEP 9 1965



SPECTATORS EXAMINE THE AUTO IN WHICH MATT MURPHY JR. WAS KILLED
... The attorney's car collided with a tanker truck of asphalt near Tuscaloosa

Associated Press wirephoto

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Attorney for Klan Dies in Car Crash

Ku Klux Klan attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr., of Birmingham who earlier this week had accused the FBI of harboring a civil rights killing informant in Tampa, was killed early today in a car-truck collision near Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Murphy had charged that Gary Thomas Rowe, 31, who turned up as an undercover agent for the FBI during the trial of one of the defendants in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzio, a white civil rights worker, "was living it up in Tampa with six FBI men with him around the clock at a cost of \$180 a day to the taxpayers."



MATT H. MURPHY JR.
... Dies in Accident

Joseph F. Santoiana, chief agent of the Tampa FBI office has steadfastly maintained that he "knows nothing about it."

Mrs. Liuzzio, of Detroit, was transporting civil rights marchers in an automobile during the Selma-Birmingham march last spring when she was shot to death from occupants of another car.

Three Klan members were charged with the murder. The trial of the first, Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., ended in a mistrial and has been rescheduled for next month in Hayneville, Ala.

It was during the Wilkins trial that Rowe emerged as an undercover agent for the FBI and testified he had served in that

capacity for five years. He had joined the Klan and was riding in the car from which Mrs. Liuzzio was shot. At the trial Rowe said Wilkins was the "trigger man."

Alabama state troopers said that a car Murphy was in crashed into the rear of the truck on U.S. 11 about 6 miles north of Tuscaloosa at about 4 a.m. Murphy was dead on arrival at a Tuscaloosa hospital.

His death probably will force postponement of trials of the three Birmingham area men indicted in the slaying of Mrs. Liuzzio near Lowndesboro, Ala., last March 25.

Murphy had practiced law in Birmingham since 1943. Prior to World War II he had worked in steel mills and later was a sales engineer with Republic Steel Corp.

Active in politics, Murphy was a member of the Episcopal Church and held membership in several fraternal organizations.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Tampa Times
—Tampa, Florida

Date: 8/20/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Bennett DeLoach

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

51 SEP 10 1965

NOT RECORDED
167 SEP 9 1965